

REMARKS

Claims 1-60 are in the application. Claims 9, 13, 15-19, 28, 32, 34-38, 47, 51, and 53-57 are withdrawn, and claims 1-8, 10-12, 14, 20-27, 29-31, 33, 39-46, 48-50, 52, and 58-60 remain unchanged from the original versions thereof. Claims 1, 20, 39, and 58-60 are the independent claims.

The Office Action imposed a restriction requirement regarding claims 1-60. In particular, the Office Action classified the claims as follows:

Generic: claims 1, 20, 39, and 58-60;

Species I: claims 2-8, 10-12, 14, 21-27, 29-31, 33, 40-46, 48-50, and 52;

Species II: claims 15, 16, 18-19, 34, 35, 37, 38, 53, 54, 56, and 57; and

Species III: claims 9, 13, 17, 28, 32, 36, 47, 51, and 55.

Applicants elect Species I, with traverse. Accordingly, Applicants elect to continue prosecution of claims **1-8, 10-12, 14, 20-27, 29-31, 33, 39-46, 48-50, 52, and 58-60.**

While not fully agreed with, Applicants respect and appreciate the Office Action's inclusion of an articulated reasoning regarding the restriction requirement. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit and clarify that any arguments of record regarding restriction of the present application were directed to the propriety of the restriction requirements, not distinctiveness between the alleged species. Accordingly, Applicants have not and do not make, argue, or admit to any statements regarding patentable distinctions between the claims of the present application.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement, and failing the withdrawal of the restriction, entry of the claim amendments listed hereinabove. Applicants respectfully request the consideration and allowance of the pending claims. If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions for expediting allowance of the present application, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned via telephone at (203) 972-5985.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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